



DEVELOPMENT OVERSIGHT
COMMISSION.

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

300 RICHARDS BLVD.
THIRD FLOOR
SACRAMENTO, CA
95811

January 6, 2009

Kevin Johnson
Mayor, City of Sacramento
915 "I" Street, New City Hall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mayor Johnson,

The Development Oversight Commission (DOC) and customers of the development boards and commissions have identified the need for streamlining and efficiency improvements in the hearing processes. This assessment is based on the need to ensure that the City's hearing processes are effective, transparent, predictable, and cost efficient. After extensive review of the current development hearing and commission processes, input from customers, and examining ways to reduce the project processing time and associated costs for both the customers and the City, we recommend the following:

- Create a new Planning Commission by combining the existing Planning Commission and Design Review Commission into a single entity.
- Define ordinance language to clearly define membership, roles and responsibilities for the new commission.
- The new commission would consist of seven members, with at least two of the seven required to have professional experience in architecture, landscape architecture and/or urban planning. The existing Design Commission is comprised of seven members and the Planning Commission of nine.
- This commission would follow the model established by the existing Historic Preservation and Design Commissions and move the majority of project decisions to the staff level, utilizing the commission's time for complex projects and appeals.
- Conduct an annual review, including a survey of customers, to assess performance and effectiveness of the new commission.
- Establish funded continuing education for the new Commissioners.

The DOC would like to volunteer to assist in the work necessary to achieve these improvements. The DOC has established a working subcommittee to partner with staff in the creation of the new commission, assist with the outreach necessary to gather input, and educate our business partners and the public. We feel that these improvements align with your vision for responsive, efficient, and effective government. This will create a competitive advantage for the City of Sacramento and may well become a model for other jurisdictions to follow.

As a first step, we would like to meet with you to gather your input to start the work to create the new commission. Please feel free to contact Janis Franklin, Program Specialist, at (916) 808-7705 or email: jfranklin@cityofsacramento.org to discuss your availability and scheduling. If possible, we would like to meet with in the next two weeks.

We look forward to a productive working relationship.

Sincerely,

Holger Fuerst, P.E., Chair
Development Oversight Commission